

// We face the challenge of a society in moral collapse as it dismantles the God given structures designed to hold it together. God's people are under increasing pressure to abandon His truth.

However, we have a God who is more than able and he has placed at our disposal the incredible resource of prayer and the promise to respond to our requests.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16) because - He is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20). //

PASTOR ALAN BAIRD
(President, ABCI)

// Ever heard of these 4 people - James McQuilkin, Jeremiah McNeilly, John Wallace and Robert Carlisle? No? They are not really household names. Yet by God's grace in the autumn of 1857 they decided to get together to pray. Nothing fancy - just a meeting in an old schoolhouse outside Kells in County Antrim - a meeting where God was the only attraction. Yet God moved in answer to their prayers and brought about a mighty spiritual awakening, which led to an estimated 100,000 being brought to Christ. Can God still do that? Why not? He hasn't changed and the need is as great as ever. That's why we need to pray together. //

PASTOR TREVOR RAMSEY
(Vice President, ABCI)



2020 MARKS THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES IN IRELAND (FORMERLY BAPTIST UNION OF IRELAND) IN 1895.

During February of that year a "call to prayer" was sent out requesting that a week be set apart for a series of prayer gatherings for God to move among our churches. The following was recorded in the Annual Report of 1895; "All the pastors responded heartily to this call, and the week of prayer was ... observed in the churches. May we not hope that a similar season of united supplication become an acknowledged ... institution in the Churches."

To mark the 125th anniversary the ABCI Executive Committee wishes to echo that sentiment of 1895 and has issued a similar call to "unite to pray". This call is to set aside a specific time in the first week of every month in 2020 for churches to join together in a way that suits each locality for a time of united prayer across the island, focussing specifically on the requests contained in this booklet.

Let us make the most of this opportunity to declare our confidence in God and our dependence on God through our persistence with God.

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unite to pray 2020

A CALL FOR CHURCHES
TO JOIN TOGETHER
THE FIRST WEEK OF
EVERY MONTH
TO PRAY WITH
PURPOSE AND
EXPECTATION

JAN



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Greater Dublin area and a movement of God across that city (Balbriggan, Ballycullen, Grace Bible Fellowship, Grosvenor Road, Jamestown Road, Swords and the newly formed Blackrock)
- ▶ Pray that all our churches will maintain the unity of the Spirit (both as churches and as an Association) so that the church will build itself up in love (Ephesians 4)
- ▶ Pray that a culture of prayer would permeate all of our churches, and that God would make us into people who delight in coming together to pray.
- ▶ Pray that God, by His Spirit, would move in revival power that his kingdom will be established on earth as it is in heaven.

MAR



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Connacht (Furbo, Galway City, Sligo).
- ▶ Pray that God's people would increasingly "declare the praises" of God by living distinctively and speaking the good news boldly.

- ▶ Pray that church leaders would walk uprightly. Ask God to give them strength in their daily fight against sin, and enable them to lead with humility, love, patience and gentleness.



FEB



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Belfast and a movement of God across the city (Ballygomartin, Calvary, Castlereagh, Cregagh, East End, Gilnahirk, Grace Tullycarnet, Great Victoria Street, Grove, Milltown, Mountpottinger, Newtownbreda, North Belfast Christian Fellowship, Orangefield, Shankill, Strandtown, Windsor).
- ▶ Pray that we would be a people that feel the burden to proclaim the gospel—shaking off apathy and being filled with compassion for the lost.
- ▶ Pray "ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field". And ask God to use you, personally, as a worker in whatever part of his harvest field he wills.

APR



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Co. Antrim (Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Carrickfergus, Clady Water, Crumlin, Dunseverick, Emmanuel, Finaghy, Glenarm, Glengormley, Grange, Greenisland, Larne, Lisburn, Monkstown, Portrush, Rathcoole, Whitehead).
- ▶ Pray that as your church gathers around the Bible, you would have your souls refreshed as you encounter the living God. Ask God to use the preaching of the gospel to enlighten many eyes.
- ▶ Pray that members of your church would increasingly act like the holy people God has declared you to be.
- ▶ Pray that the island of Ireland will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

MAY



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Co. Down (Ballycrochan, Ballykeel, Ballynahinch, Bethany, Carr, Carryduff, Comber, Donaghadee, Dromore, Dundonald, Hamilton Road, Holywood, Kilkeel, Killyleagh, Kircubbin, Millisle, Moira, Newcastle, Newtownards, Poyntzpass, Rathfriland, Saintfield, Warrenpoint).
- ▶ Pray that the members of our churches may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
- ▶ Pray that the Holy Spirit would prepare hearts for the gospel message: to remove stumbling blocks and grow in many a spiritual hunger.

JUN



- ▶ Pray for the Churches in Leinster (Athlone, Brannockstown, Carrickmacross, Dundalk, Living Hope Trim).
- ▶ Pray that our churches would be united as we work towards our common goal of exalting Christ.
- ▶ Pray that we would warmly embrace all types of people, confident that the gospel can transform all types of people. Pray for a welcoming atmosphere of love in our churches.

JUL



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Co. Fermanagh and Co. Tyrone (Castledearg, Coagh, Cookstown, Dunamanagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Gortmerron, Knockconny, Lisnagleer, Mullaghmeen, Omagh, Sion Mills, Stonepark).
- ▶ Pray for the Pastors and Elders of our churches that they would remain above reproach, kept from temptation, complacency, idols, and worldliness.
- ▶ Pray for opportunities to invest meaningfully in the lives of children at your church, particularly through the summer period. Pray that the coming generations would set their hope in God.

AUG



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Co. Armagh and Co. Cavan (Armagh, Cavan, Craigavon, Killicomaine, Lurgan, Newry, Portadown, Tandragee).
- ▶ Pray that a culture of cheerful giving would take root in your church: that you would give generously not just to the church itself, but also to one another as needs arise.
 - ▶ Pray that the church and those who teach Scripture will hold fast to the truth and contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

SEP



- ▶ Pray for the Churches in Munster (Carrigaline, Cork, Douglas, Killarney, Kinsale, Limerick, Middleton, Nenagh, Thurles, Tralee, Waterford, Westside, Youghal).
- ▶ Praise God that the gospel message has the power to save anyone, no matter what his or her background is. Thank God for some of the "unlikely converts" that are already part of your church; pray that he would bring many more.
- ▶ Pray for a renewed sense of commitment to the life and ministry of the local church through attendance, prayerfulness, service and giving.

OCT



- ▶ Pray for the churches in Co. Londonderry & Co. Donegal (Bellaghy, Carndaisy, Coleraine, Kilrea, Letterkenny, Limavady, Magherafelt, Portstewart, Richill Park, Tobermore).
- ▶ Pray for boldness as your church disperses each week to your individual homes, neighbourhoods and workplaces; that you would unashamedly seek opportunities to share the gospel.
- ▶ Pray that everyone in your church would see the need to devote money, time and talents to evangelism.

NOV



- ▶ Pray for the major cities (Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Londonderry, Limerick, Lisburn, Waterford) -that the gospel would have an impact on those from all nations living in our cities.
- ▶ Pray that your church would have the right perspective on their giving: not as merely a way to keep the building's lights on, but as an exciting opportunity to "enlarge the harvest of your righteousness"
- ▶ Pray for an open door for the gospel message and many opportunities to speak clearly, boldly and with grace (Colossians 4)
- ▶ Pray for the church planting and outreach efforts connected to our churches (Belturbet, Bundoran, Carlingford, Carrigtwohill, Keady, Manorhamilton, Passage West, Shankill Community Fellowship).
- ▶ Pray for a movement of God among towns and villages in rural areas.
- ▶ Pray that many who hear the good news about Jesus at your church would believe it.
- ▶ Pray that God would prevent you from hurting your brothers and sisters with harsh, cutting or thoughtless words. Pray that you would be sensitive to the needs of others, and kind in seeking to meet them.
- ▶ Pray that the commitment to prayer throughout this year will continue into the future.